

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 171428Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1269

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5532

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PO

SUBJ: SEDES SPURNS POLITICAL ALLIANCE: ORGANIZATION AT
IMPASSE

SUMMARY: ALL SEDES OFFICERS RESIGNED AFTER A PLENARY MEETING OF
SEDES REJECTED MOVE TO ALLY THIS TECHNOCRATIC ORGANIZATION WITH
PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY. ACTIVITY IS AT STANDSTILL AND
SURVIVAL OF ORGANIZATION IN DOUBT. END SUMMARY.

1. SINCE ITS CREATION FOUR YEARS AGO, ASSOCIATION FOR
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (SEDES) HAD BEEN POLITICALLY
DIVERSE GROUP OF TECHNOCRATS WHO DID NOT, AS AN ORGANIZATION,
BECOME DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN POLITICAL PROCESS. AFTER FALL OF
CAETANO GOVERNMENT ON APRIL 25 AND SUBSEQUENT APPEARANCE OF
POLITICAL PARTIES, MAJOR REASON FOR SEDES' POLITICAL NON-
INVOLVEMENT EVAPORATED. SEDES IS NOW PARALYZED AFTER FAILED
BID BY SOCIALIST ACTIVISTS TO STEER THIS TECHNOCRATIC ORGAN-
IZATION TOWARDS AN OPEN AND DEFINED POLITICAL ROLE.

2. AT NOVEMBER 30 MEETING OF SEDES GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE
COORDINATION COUNCIL SUBMITTED 4-POINT PROPOSAL FOR SHORT
TERM POLITICAL ACTION, FOURTH POINT OF WHICH WOULD HAVE ALTERED
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SEDES' BYLAWS TO PERMIT AFFILIATION WITH PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST

PARTY. THIS FOURTH PROVISION, ONLY OPERATIVE CLAUSE IN PROPOSAL, WAS REJECTED BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY VOTE OF 69 TO 44. IN REACTION TO VOTE, COORDINATION COUNCIL AND DISCAL COUNCIL RESIGNED. WORK OF POLITICAL COMMISSION, A GROUP OF 15 CREATED AFTER APRIL 25 TO HELP DESIGN POLITICAL FUTURE OF ORGANIZATION, EFFECTIVELY SUSPENDED WITH RESIGNATION OF OTHER TWO BODIES.

3. VICE PRESIDENT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ACTING PRESIDENT AT NOVEMBER 30 PLENARY SESSION, ATTORNEY MANUEL ATAIDE FERREIRA, INFORMED EMBOFF DECEMBER 11 ALL ACTIVITIES OR ORGANIZATION ARE PRESENTLY SUSPENDED PENDING ELECTIONS FOR NEW OFFICERS IN EARLY JANUARY. ATAIDE SAID SOCIALIST ACTIVISTS WERE SURPRISED THEIR PROPOSAL WAS REJECTED ALTHOUGH THEY DID EXPECT CLOSE VOTE. ATAIDE, ALSO A MEMBER OF POLITICAL COMMISSION, DESCRIBED TWO SOCIALIST "DYNAMICS" WHICH HAVE DEVELOPED WITHIN SEDES: THE FIRST IS STRICT, ORTHODOX AND ACTIVIST, THE SECOND IS MORE ON THE WESTERN EUROPEAN MODEL AND FAVORS EEC INTEGRATION. ATAIDE SAID THAT ACTIVISTS, FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON, REFUSE TO WORK DIRECTLY AS INDIVIDUALS IN PSP AND HAVE THREATENED TO START THEIR OWN RIVAL SEDES-TYPE ORGANIZATION SHOULD SEDES NOT ALLY ITSELF WITH SOCIALIST PARTY. ATAIDE ESTIMATED THAT ACTIVISTS COMPRISE ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF SEDES AND THAT IF THEY WITHDRAW, SEDES WOULD PROBABLY COLLAPSE IN LIGHT OF NEW POLITICAL SITUATION. ATAIDE NOTED THAT SEDES HAS ALWAYS HAD STRONG SOCIALIST DYNAMIC WITHOUT WHICH, THE ORGANIZATION WOULD BECOME MORIBUND.

4. PROMINENT MEMBERS OF COORDINATION COUNCIL (CC) AND POLITICAL COMMISSION (PC) ARE: MINISTER OF THE ECONOMY EMILIO RUI VILAR, (PRES GA, PC MEMBER); SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SOCIAL SECURITY SANTA CLARA GOMES (CC, PC); SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDUSTRY AND ENERGY ENG. JOSE TORRES CAMPOS (CC, PC); SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING DR. VITOR CONSTANCIO (CC, PC); SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL TRADE AND TOURISM DR. JOSE VERA JARDIM (PC); AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION MANUEL FERREIRA LIMA (PC). COMMENT: MOST MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING OF SEDES REJECTED AFFILIATION WITH THE SOCIALIST PARTY BECAUSE, ALTHOUGH BASICALLY SOCIALIST THEMSELVES, THEY FELT THE ORGANIZATION COULD BEST PROMOTE THEIR OBJECTIVE INDEPENDENT

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OF THE PSP.
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